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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Toshihiro KAWAGUCHI, et al.  
Serial No. : (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2005/002588  
filed February 18, 2005)  
Filed : 08/17/06  
For : OBLIQUE CONTACT BALL BEARING AND  
BEARING DEVICE FOR SUPPORTING PINION  
SHAFT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified patent  
application as follows: